

# AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

## Department of Michigan

September 2024—issue #3

### 2024-25 Department Officer

President Gloria Hall

1st Vice Pam Lein

\*2nd Vice Nancy Middleton

3rd Vice Maureen Jackson

Chaplain Karen Krumm

Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony

Treasurer Kathy Keizer

Americanism Cindy Wolken

Hospital Trisha Rosenburg

Scholarship Andrea Ray

N.E.C. Faye Richardson-Green

Parliament. Bertha Zeno Lema

Personnel Chair Kathy Keizer

AMVET Lodge Roberta Robinson

Ways & Means Patsy Watkins

Honors & Awards Pat Michalski

Convention/Fall Conf. Chair  
Nancy Middleton

Long Range Chair Bert Zeno Lema

Aleda E Lutz VAVS Linda Marshall

B.C. VAVS Faye Richardson-Green

G.R. Home Rep Leora Williamson

Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith

John Dingell VA Cel Rose Solak

District II Pres. Pat Michalski

District V Pres. Patsy Watkins

District VII Pres. Barb Robare

PRO Kathryn Cross

Exec. Secretary Nancy Middleton

\*temporary

## BRING BACK THE BASICS

with President Gloria Hall



Hello Ladies,

I want to share a little bit of what went on at the National Convention, but not too much because I am sure our Officers attending will be reporting too. I was in attendance for the entire week, Sunday through Saturday. I was able to attend a Finance committee meeting, a Hospital / VAVS meeting, and a membership and By-Laws meeting. All this before the start of the convention on Tuesday. The Finance Committee Chair gave information on the state of National's well-being. A proposed budget was brought to the floor later that week. I am happy our budget is nowhere near the National budget of over \$300,000!

The hospital / VAVS meeting was an eye opener. The National Committee have wondered why the Auxiliary does not get the recognition other donors receive from St Jude for the thousands of dollars we have given over the years. A question was put forward and their response was National, would have to sign a MOI (Memo of Intent) to guarantee \$50,000 annually. The offer was declined because of the uncertainty of funds donated. Another question was asked, "Could we designate our donations to go to certain programs or projects?" They said "yes," and we would receive recognition for those donations. I guess the right questions were never asked nor did they give us any options either. Our donations just went into their General Fund. The committee will now research a new and better way of putting the funds to use. On a high note, donations this year are the largest to St Jude ever. The amount was \$78,000 dollars. Everyone in Michigan should be proud we helped accumulate these funds. The membership meeting will be reported by 1st Vice Pam Lein who also attended the convention. Be sure to go online to: [amvetsauxdeptmi.org](http://amvetsauxdeptmi.org) to get the whole scoop by Department Officers.

The By-Law's committee meeting had over sixty members attending. The Committee Chair took each resolution submitted by Departments and they were read and voted on to take to the floor of the convention. Ours was read and NEC Faye will be reporting on the outcome of our resolution.

Michigan had eight Department voting strength Officers who attended: Pat Michalski, Faye Richardson-Green, Allison Aldridge, Kathy Keizer, Pam Lein, Patsy Watkins. Caroline Wisniewski and myself. Another piece of good news. Faye was elected to the Office of National Americanism. She has submitted her Department resignation, and it was approved by me. A poll vote was sent out to appoint Pat Michalski to replace Faye as NEC—and approved. Allison Aldridge was re-elected as the National Scholarship Officer. I am proud to congratulate our three Officers and the whole Department!

Finally, we have Fall Conference coming up next month. Be sure to read the great plans the Department Chair Nancy has for this date. All are invited to attend. The Department is planning several 'perks' for our members in hopes of getting a good delegation of our members there. Read all about it in the newsletter.

Lastly, the Department has planned several Auxiliary weekends for comradery, food, games and a great place to meet fellow Auxiliary members over the years. This year's weekend is already reserved at the AMVETS Headquarters at Higgins Lake. Invitations were already extended to several National Officers who are also planning on attending. April 25-27th is the date. More info regarding reservation next month. Stay tuned!

Yours in the spirit of success  
Gloria Hall  
Department President



## MEMBERSHIP

**Pam Lein, 1st Vice President**

As I write this newsletter I have just returned from National Convention. A change is coming to membership costs. As of January 1st, life membership is going up by \$75. The cost is now \$278; come January 1st, it will be \$353. Annual membership was not changed by National.

The moratorium is now gone. If you decide to go with a life membership, it needs to be postmarked by December 15th so The Secretary can process it and have it to National H.Q. by the end of the year..

In my first newsletter, I talked of the three contests approved at the Dept. convention. The first one was for all Auxiliaries life member assessments paid and postmarked by 11/5/24.

- The first two Auxiliaries to send them in would receive \$50 each for their Auxiliary. We have received some Auxiliaries with their life assessments paid and the first 2 are #126 and #1957. I will get them their checks by the end of September. Congratulations to each of those Auxiliaries.
- The second contest is: All annual members will be given a contest number. There will be a drawing on the last mail date of September, October, November and December. If the person whose number is drawn is in good standing and has renewed their membership for 2024/2025, they will win \$50.
- The third contest is, The local Auxiliary with the most new members by May 31, 2025 will receive a prize of \$50.

Please remember when filling out your DNR forms, they are on current forms (May 2024), last name first and in alphabetical order. Also, it is so important, if you are handwriting the D&R's, make sure your spelling is clear and precise, please!!

DO NOT hold your renewals until the end of the year, please. Send them along to the Secretary at least monthly (if not sooner).

Regards  
Department 1st Vice



### APPROVED NEW OFFICERS FOR THE 2024/2025 YEAR.

A Poll Vote was taken to approve the following Officer changes and passed by the SEC:

- ♦ Pat Michalski will be replacing Faye Richardson-Green as our NEC Woman.
- ♦ Maureen Jackson will be replacing Pat Michalski as our 3rd Vice President/Community Service Officer.
- ♦ Kathryn Cross will be servicing as our Dept. PRO.

Thanks to each of these ladies for stepping up!!

**FALL PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY SEPT. 3, 2024**

# CHILD WELFARE

**Nancy Middleton, 2nd Vice President**



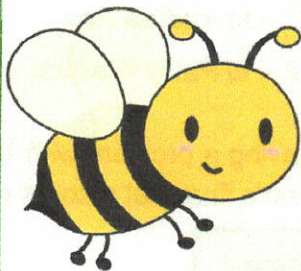
This article will be kind of short because there is just so much to do right now. I just want to remind everyone about our Department Child Welfare project Penrickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor Michigan.

What an amazing place. I remember the first time I toured their facility (over 30 years ago). I was confused because of the beautiful wall decorations throughout the hallways and how each bedroom had a theme which was depicted with colors, stuffed animals and fabulous artwork. I thought to myself—"I thought these children are blind. Who can see it?" I asked the Director and he asked me "How do you feel when you see all this colorful artwork?" I said I feel happy. He said—"exactly. Maybe many of the kids can't see, but they can feel happiness and positive attitudes."

Over the years Penrickton has grown in size, made tremendous improvements in their equipment, upgraded every aspect of the original building—but the rooms are still unbelievable, the halls are still bright and colorful with cartoons and artwork. And I am still happy when I walk through them.

I hope the next time we take a tour, you will be able to join us and see for yourself what an amazing place it is. Please keep it in your donation plans at the end of the year. I am going to keep bugging everyone until we break that \$10,000 donation level. (last year was \$9777.13—we just need to duplicate it this year plus an additional \$222.87!!) We can do it!!!!

## DENISE ROCK



Bee  
WELL SOON

Get well soon and come back with full energy in your lively soul!

## FALL CONFERENCE

**Sept. 13-15, 2024**

**DoubleTree Hotel  
4747 28th St SE  
Grand Rapids**

**Hotel Reservations  
1/616/597-0100**

**Make plans now to  
attend.**

**See the tentative  
schedule on page #8**



**ARE YOU WONDERING  
ABOUT THE FALL S.E.C.  
MEETING???**

President Gloria said it will be on  
Friday, Sept. 13th at 6:30pm.

*UNIFORMS ARE REQUESTED  
FOR THE S.E.C.*

**Are you pre-registered for Fall Conference? Why are you waiting?**

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

by Maureen Jackson, 3rd Vice President

The annual tour of Paws With A Cause has been set up for Thursday, October 17 at 1pm.

If you have never been to "PAWS" before—you are in for a treat. If you have been on these tours, welcome back! You will be seeing all the new construction which it being done to modernize and up grade the buildings.

More information will be in the next newsletter—but please save the date!



Thanks for offering to fill one of our important offices this year.



# WAYS & MEANS

by Patsy Watkins, Chairman



I would like to see a lot of new faces at Fall Conference this year. My thinking is you can only experience the Conference with your own eyes, not that of another person's eyes.

We will be having a Quarter Auction for some lovely prizes. I am also planning to have a secret raffle. These tickets will be \$1 each of 6 for \$5. They will be available at the start of the Fall Conference.

If anyone would like to donate items for future raffles, please let me know. We are always looking for suggestions and ideas.

Patsy Watkins, Ways & Means Chairman  
S11109 Long Lake Dr.  
Sparta MI 49345  
sassyjo1027@yahoo.com  
616/589-2728

# TREASURER

By PDP Kathy Keizer

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The following checks written at Convention have NOT yet been cashed as of August 15.

### Texas Hold'em Checking Account:

- ★ #593 dated 6/22/24 – to Aux. #72 - \$25 for membership award
- ★ #598 dated 6/22/24 – to Aux. #23 - \$25 for membership award

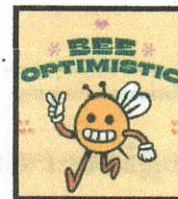
The following checks written at the Officer Training meeting have NOT been cashed as of August 15.

### General Fund Checking Account:

- ★ #4546 for \$40.20 dated July 22 – to Andrea Rey
- ★ #4558 for \$13.20 dated July 22 – to Patsy Watkins

Please get checks cashed. I'm having a problem with balances from last year so I can start this year's financial records right!

I'M TRYING HARD TO.....



.....but I need help!

# LONG RANGE PLANNING

Bert Lema, Chairman



The Long-Range Planning Committee is working on developing another survey which will again be available to all members online in the near future. When it is ready, I will send emails to all Local Officers to alert you to its availability and ask you each to respond. The information we gain from your participation will help us to better develop changes to benefit all members. We want you all to be part of the solution!

I have created email lists for each Local Auxiliary based on information provided on your most recent revalidation forms. To ensure my email to you is received and does not end up in your junk or spam folder, please add my email address to your contact list:- lema81@wowway.com.



Thanks for all you do for our veterans and our communities!

# FALL CONFERENCE PIZZA RANCH LUNCH



We will be car pooling to the Pizza Ranch for lunch during Fall Conference. It is just a mile down the road (actually 1.3 miles) and if you have never been there before, you are in for a treat.

I am not sure why it is called Pizza Ranch. Yes, they have a buffet with a big variety of Pizzas, but they also have some really good chicken, potatoes, vegetables, deserts, fountain drinks and lots of 'stuff'.

AND...the Auxiliary is picking up the tab for our Auxiliary Fall Conference attendees!!!

# Parliamentarian News

Bert Lema, Parliamentarian



I urge every local Officer to make a plan to attend Fall Conference this year. Our Fall Conference Chair Nancy Middleton, has been working diligently to develop an interesting slate of classes and instructors who will help you feel more confident in your duties.

Nancy has been able to get approval for incentives to cut down on your costs in order to make attending Fall Conference more affordable. She also has some fun planned which you definitely will not want to miss.

Most importantly, if you are a Parliamentarian or handle those responsibilities, it is especially important for you to have a basic understanding of the obligations of every Local Officer so they can turn to you for assistance.

Even if you have attended a Fall Conference in the past, there is always something new to learn and new friends to make.

Please contact me at lema81@wowway.com or call me at 586.214.1019, if you have any questions. Leave a message and I'll return your call as soon as possible.



## 2024 FALL CONFERENCE CLASSES:



**Reporting—Nancy Middleton**

**Membership—Kathy Keizer**

**Sgt-at-Arms —Jennifer Zelony**

**Chaplain—Karen Krumm**

**Long Range Planning—  
Bert Zeno Lema**



**plus—"This and That!"  
(other "Back to Basic Stuff" put  
together by Nancy & Kathy)**

# SGT-AT-ARMS

By Jennifer Zelony



## Posting of Colors

Many people think the posting of colors is very easy and all you do is walk down the aisle and put the flag in the holder. There is more to it and in the position of Sgt-at-Arms, you are in charge of making sure people are doing it the right way for respecting the flag.

When the people who are carrying the flags pay attention, the American flag stands straight up and down, you walk up the aisle. 6 paces before the flag reaches people, then put their hand up to address the flag and hold it until 6 paces after the flag passes. They can put their hand down.

Once the American flag goes to the left side of where you are walking so it is seen from the left to right like reading a book to the audience. Then you will Salute the flag and process to speak the pledge of allegiance..

# CHAPLAIN

by Karen Krumm, Chaplain

I hope you have been enjoying your summer.

Here are some of the duties of a Chaplain:

- ◆ Give Invocation and Benediction at all meetings and whenever asked.
- ◆ Give Blessing at meals.
- ◆ Send cards to Auxiliary members and their immediate families if they are ill or injured. I also will send one if someone needs a pick me up.
- ◆ Let the Department Chaplain know so she can send a gift from the Sunshine Fund. (More on that next month).
- ◆ Remember to pray for our Auxiliary, AMVETS, Sons and Riders, our Military, their families, our Veterans and our Country.
- ◆ Remember to



# JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS

By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Home Rep

It is official! Property in Marquette Township has been approved to build a new facility for the Jacobetti Residents. It will be two years before the residents will move to the new facility. In the meantime the members of Jacobetti will and have enjoyed many events.

Jacobetti Veteran had a wonderful outing at Lake Unke Post 122, great food, fellowship, card bingo. Once again we allowed the youth to call out the card numbers and assist residents. It was a perfect day, not too hot, (not too many bugs). The Adults and youth enjoyed visiting with the Jacobetti members.

The members also enjoyed the following events: 19th Annual Fish Fry sponsored by Munising Vietnam Veterans of America and American Legion, Nathan Koski Memorial Classic Car Show, Boar Hunt, Luncheon with American Legion Greenwood Post #114, BBQs onsite, picnics offsite at Clark Lambros Park and Deer Lake, and lunch with Elks Lodge #405, American Legion #44, and AMVETS #122 at Lake Unky, a piano performance with a talented youth, Han Han Savitski,, performance of Modern Warrior and dinner at NMU and onsite presentation of "Ghost Soldiers" by Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center, Music by many talented individuals including our own Lois Westman



# FALL CONFERENCE PERKS!

- 1. Pre-registration \$5 (save \$10)**
- 2. Each Auxiliary member will receive \$40 credited to her room for each night booked (up to 2 nights). This is for each Auxiliary member in the room. 2 nights with 2 members = \$160 discount on the bill. This gives the total cost for lodging for 2 nights of \$100—or \$25 per night per Auxiliary member. (this is an estimate because I don't know the exact tax per room. Figuring on total room cost of \$130 per night—may be a few dollars more or less.)**
  - a. Must be an Auxiliary member**
  - b. Must be registered for Fall Conference (and attend)**
  - c. Will be paid directly to hotel and deducted from room bill**
- 3. Lunch on Saturday will be at the Pizza Ranch (1.3 miles from the hotel—we will car pool). FREE—Auxiliary will cover the cost.**
- 4. Quarter Auction—for each \$10 spent, you will get 1 extra quarter chip free. Who knows what fabulous prize you could win with this 'bonus'.**



## DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

### PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS

September 13 to 15, 2024

Let's clean up  
on these great  
offers!



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_

The above listed person will be attending Fall Conference in Grand Rapids (DoubleTree Hotel) and is excited to take advantage of the one-time offer of \$5 pre-registration if postmarked by September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Registrations after that date will be charged the basic fee of \$20.

Mail to Nancy Middleton—1535 48th St SE—Kentwood MI 49508

Make checks payable to AMVETS Ladies Aux. Dept. of MI

She is also thrilled at the amazing incentives offered this year and plans to take full advantage of the Department of Michigan Auxiliary's generosity.

# FALL CONFERENCE TENTATIVE AGENDA



Doing an agenda for Fall Conference has been difficult. There are many factors involved which determines how this is to be set up. I have not been able to clarify if the AMVETS are planning an opening ceremony or anything else they may want us to take part in. So, I am just assuming we will not be doing any combined opening. Not knowing how many people we will have for the classes is another problem. With the Conference a couple weeks earlier than normally planned, the time to get information out is limited. So, I am going to be very positive and assume we will get a lot of people! The key word to the agenda is the word

## 'TENTATIVE'

So here goes with my "ideal" agenda.

### MORNING SESSIONS START AT 9:30

9:30am to 10:30 am

Room #1—Membership / Kathy Keizer

Room #2—Reporting / Nancy Middleton

10:30am to 11:00am

Room #1—Sgt-at-Arms / Jennifer Zelony

Room #2—Chaplain—Karen Krumm

11:00am to 11:45am

Room #1—Long Range Planning—Bert Lema

Room #2—This and That—Nancy & Kathy

### AFTERNOON SESSIONS START AT 1:45pm

1:45pm to 2:45 pm

Room #1—Membership / Kathy Keizer

Room #2—Reporting / Nancy Middleton

2:45pm to 3:15pm

Room #1—Sgt-at-Arms / Jennifer Zelony

Room #2—Chaplain—Karen Krumm

3:15am to 4:00pm

Room #1—Long Range Planning—Bert Lema

Room #2—This and That—Nancy & Kathy

### LUNCH—PIZZA RANCH

12 noon to 1:30pm - car pooling at noon

### QUARTER AUCTION

Open at 6pm Start about 6:30pm to 8:00pm



You will notice each class is scheduled for the morning and repeated in the afternoon. This way everyone can attend all classes. If we have a large turnout, this schedule will work. We would be in a class where you would be comfortable asking questions and joining in a discussion. I will have to make a decision about the agenda a week before the event.

I don't know about you, but I hate this last minute stuff!

